(d) whether this date was subsequently extended upto 10th November, 1991;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether another meeting of the Committee was held on 4th November. 1991; and

(g) if so, what was the necessity of giving extension when the report of the Committee was already with Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (g) The Expert Committee on Electropathy/Electrohomoeopathy system of medicine submitted the proceedings of ther meeting on 27-8-91. In the absence of a report on the terms of reference for which the Committee was constituted, they were asked to furnish the same; the tenure of the Committee was also extended upto 10-11-91. The Committee's report was received on 4-11-91 but could not be considered owing to the matter being subjudice.

**Spurioos and Substandard Ayurvedic Drugs**

1426. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Ayurvedic Drugs are not covered under the purview of Drug Control Act, as a result of which spurious/substandard Ayurvedic Drugs are pumped into the market;

(b) whether Government have any laboratory to test such drugs; and

(c) what steps Government contemplate to control and regulate the quality of these Ayurvedic Drugs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) No, Sir.

Ayurvedic drugs are covered under the purview of Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All States have appointed Drug Controllers for Indian. .medicines alongwith other personnel for the purpose.

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**Malpractice by Physicians/Medical | Practitioners**

; 1427. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of, malpractice committed by Physicians/ Medical Practitioners by directly selling/. distributing medicines to the patients, without holding any qualification/licence under Drugs Control Act to do so;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that this malpractice leads to distribution of fake/substandard/spurious medicines as most of the Medical Sales representatives are not registered; and

(<:} if so, what steps Government contemplate to do away/regulate this practice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (c) Under Section 42 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948, no person other than a registered pharmacist shall compound, prepare, mix or dispense any medicine on the prescription of a medical practitioner However, a medicai practitioner may dispense medicine for his own patients or with the general or special sanction of the State Government, for the patients of another medical practitioner.

**AIDS spread among teenage studends in Tamil Nadu**

1428. SHRI BALBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the spread of the dreaded scourage AIDS among teenage students in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what effective steps have been tiken/proposed to be taken for containing its further spread; in consultation with the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) "Government is aware of reports appearing in cer-